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FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE  
2430 E Street, N. W.  
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6 March 1951

OPERATIONAL MEMORANDUM  
NO. 551-3

SUBJECT: Soviet Commentary Lists

In order to improve uniformity and consistency in Bureau compilation of Soviet commentary lists, the basic memorandum of 14 September 1950 is summarized and supplemented as follows:

1. Scope: Soviet broadcast commentaries, excluding clandestine and regional domestic services.

2. Definition of "commentary":

- a. Commentaries so announced.
- b. Articles and editorials from Soviet and Communist publications, if broadcast in text or substantial summary.
- c. Speeches, if broadcast in text or substantial summary.
- d. Official Soviet and Communist notes, statements, and decrees, if broadcast in text or substantial summary.
- e. "International Reviews" which deal with not more than three main areas or topics.
- f. Composite material like conference reportage if consisting of homogenous opinion extracts. Press reviews and reportage on U.N. proceedings are excluded.
- g. Commentaries which are largely or partially unintelligible, if they can be identified.

3. Repeats: List all commentaries repeated from previous shows or in the course of a single show. Indicate the number of times each commentary has been broadcast in each language.

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## 4. Area identification:

- a. When the title of a commentary is vague or even misleading, a brief statement of the main country and primary topic discussed is required. For example, in the case of a commentary which contrasts the living conditions enjoyed by Soviet workers with hardships suffered in the United States, determine if possible whether the emphasis is on Soviet progress or on U.S. backwardness, and designate the area accordingly. Where the two themes are equally stressed, indicate both areas.
- b. Regions: Do not indicate a single country as area reference unless at least one-third of the commentary's attention is devoted to the affairs of that country. Commentaries which discuss a group of countries can be labeled as follows:
  - 1) Soviet Orbit: Any general combination of orbit countries, except (2) below.
  - 2) New Democracies: European Satellites of the USSR.
  - 3) West Europe: "Marshallized" countries or semi-Marshallized countries as a unit, or any combination of more than two of them.
  - 4) Non-Soviet World: Capitalist world as distinguished from the Soviet or "democratic" world.
  - 5) Middle East: Greece, Turkey, Iran, Arab States, and Israel as a unit, or any combination of more than two of them.
  - 6) Asia: Southeast Asia, Philippines, Indonesia, India, etc., taken together, or any combination of more than two of them.
  - 7) Colonial Areas: Commentaries devoted to colonial areas in general terms.
  - 8) Scandinavia: Discussions of Norway, Denmark, and Sweden (not Finland) as a unit.
  - 9) Benelux: Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg as a unit.
  - 10) Global: Discussions of international affairs on a broad and general level.

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